MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

18 MARCH 1982

Israel

'Ali Visit -- The issue of demarcating the border at 15 points between Rafah and Elat remains unsolved, Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon said at a joint press conference with Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali prior to the Egyptian delegation's departure. In remarks carried by Jerusalem radio, Sharon added that both he and 'Ali will submit to their superiors proposals raised in the talks and will meet again in Cairo within a few days in the hope of settling remaining technical differences. In connection with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's visit, Sharon said it is impossible for a visiting head of state to come to Israel without following the normal practice of visiting the capital, the radio reported.

'Ali said in a statement broadcast by the radio that it took courage and perseverance to resolve the problems which faced the two countries 3 or 4 years ago and that there is no possibility whatever that Egypt and Israel will come to an end of this long process and standstill. In a statement reported by MENA, 'Ali stressed that a formula must be found to resolve the border issue because Egypt does not want any flaws in its future relations with Israel and does not want normalization to begin with disagreement. He also revealed that Prime Minister Menahem Begin suggested that autonomy negotiations be stepped up by holding a U.S.-Israeli-Egyptian meeting at the ministerial level, adding that this suggestion will be the subject of further consultations, especially with the United States.

Sharon revealed in remarks to Herut functionaries that at Begin's request he told his Egyptian interlocutors that future autonomy talks would be held in Jerusalem, Cairo and, if necessary, Washington. If Egypt refuses to hold any talks in Jerusalem, autonomy will not be discussed at all, Sharon told the Egyptians, according to excerpts of his remarks carried by Jerusalem radio. Egypt's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali said the Israeli proposal is not new and, according to Egypt's view, what counts is not the talks' venue but their continuation to achieve the Palestinian people's legitimate right to full autonomy, Cairo radio noted. According to Jerusalem radio, Ghali also said Egypt has no objection to holding autonomy negotiations in Jerusalem.

Sharon on Lebanon, Other Topics -- Stressing that 15 acts of sabotage in Israel and 5 in southern Lebanon during the last 2 weeks were carried out from bases inside Lebanon, Sharon warned at a Herut Party meeting that Israel may be forced to take action, the Jerusalem POST reported. Sharon also disclosed that an Israeli naval vessel was shelled near Rosh Haniqra, but was not hit. According to Jerusalem radio's military correspondent, the vessel had approached the coast in order to identify a target.

Sharon said Israel could easily hit Syrian missiles stationed deep in Lebanon, but such action would necessitate dealing with missiles inside Syria, and Israel has no desire to go to war. He added that if a genuine solution is wanted, it is necessary to think one step ahead, the Jerusalem POST reported.

Golan Druze Strike -- The curfew imposed on the village of Majdal Shams has been lifted, Jerusalem radio reported.

Lebanon

A Lebanese official denied that Bahrain has closed its embassy in Beirut, according to Beirut radio. Prime Minister Sahfiq al-Wazzan announced that Lebanese political and security officials and the Syrian Deterrent Forces commander will meet on 20 March to discuss security of embassies, Beirut radio reported.

Egypt

The military judiciary department completed a memorandum on the verdicts passed on those found guilty of assassinating President Anwar as-Sadat, MENA reported. The memorandum will be submitted for President Husni Mubarak's endorsement.

Sudan

President Ja'far Numayri held a press conference in which he said he has information that Libya is sending military hardware and explosives to Sudan, SUNA reported. He said the Libyans acquired three U.S.-made planes through third parties in the form of spare parts. Sudan has contacted Ethiopia to determine if its territory is being used against Sudan, Numayri revealed.

President Numayri also noted that he has issued a bill organizing the nomination of new regional governors.

Kuwait

A Kuwaiti-Bulgarian communique broadcast by Kuwait radio noted that during Bulgarian State Council Chairman Todor Zhivkov's visit to Kuwait the two sides signed agreements on shipping; tourism; economic, industrial and technical cooperation; culture; and the equivalence of scholastic diplomas.

YAR

Citing the Beirut daily AN-NAHAR, Monte Carlo radio indicated that the opposition Democratic National Front's recent success in shooting down two government planes was due to its possession of SAM's supplied by Libya and the PDRY.

Iran

Iranian-Syrian Communique -- The Iranian and Syrian foreign ministers issued a joint communique, broadcast by Tehran radio, that condemned Iraq for continuing the war against Iran and called on nonaligned countries not to hold their forthcoming conference in Baghdad.

Security Situation -- Revolution guards arrested 30 Mojahedin-e Khalq members who had planned to subvert the broadcasting organization, Tehran radio reported. Revolution guards in Shiraz killed two Mojahedin and arrested others after surrounding and attacking their hideout, according to Shiraz radio.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iraqi Envoy in Guinea -- An Iraqi envoy left for Conakry carrying a new Iraqi proposal to Guinea's President Ahmed Sekou Torre, INA reported. Describing the proposal as "important," the Iraqi envoy said that once Iran responds to it positively, it will have a considerable effect in defining responsibility for the dispute.

Military Situation -- Iranian revolution guards launched a surprise attack against Iraqi infantry in the Hamidiyeh area, killing over 100 Iraqis, according to a guards' communique carried by Tehran radio.

Afghanistan

Kabul radio broadcast PDPA Central Committee General Secretary Babrak Karmal's report to the PDPA National Conference in which he stressed that the party needs greater unity. Asserting that dissension aimed at splitting the PDPA's cohesion will dissipate the party's strength, Karmal said the PDPA cannot tolerate any dissident grouping using the party's name and undisciplined and anarchic elements should not be allowed to remain within its ranks.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 053 18 March 1982

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

BANGLADESH

PRC Military Delegation Meets With Sattar D 1
Industries Minister Returns From Romania D 1
Allegation Against Indian Envoy Investigated D 1
Bomb Explosion in Dacca House Wounds Five [AFP] D 1

INDIA

Governor Dissolves Kerala Assembly 17 Mar E 1
President's Rule Imposed E 1
Assam's Congress-I Ministry Submits Resignation E 1
Newspaper Comments on Indo-Pakistani Relations E 1
[Delhi NATIONAL HERALD 11 Mar]

OTHER COUNTRIES

SRI LANKA

Government Enacts Antiterrorist Legislation [AFP] G 1
Vote in Parliament G 1
Plantation Workers Refuse Repatriation to India [AFP] G 1

IRAN

Mohtashemi Briefs Khomeyni on Khaddam Visit I 1
Joint Communique Issued on Talks With Syrians I 1
Petroleum Minister Leaves for Vienna OPEC Talks I 4
Musavi Discusses Illiteracy, Human Rights Groups I 4
Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique 821 I 4
Guards Report Successful Surprise Attack I 5
Successful Attack Against Iraqi Forces Reported I 5
'Heavy Casualties' I 5
'Hypocrites' Arrested in Voice, Vision Plots I 6
2 Killed in Discovery of Shiraz Safe House I 6
Clandestine on Clashes, Arrests in Bushehr [Voice of Iran] I 7
NVOI Criticizes Judges for Silence on Violations I 7
Clandestine on USSR, DPRK Arms, Experts I 8
[Voice of Iran]
Radio Iran Reports Regime Selling Gold I 8

PRC MILITARY DELEGATION MEETS WITH SATTAR

BK121137 Dacca Domestic Service in English 0835 GMT 12 Mar 82

[Text] The visiting eight-member Chinese military good-will delegation led by Liu Huaqing, deputy general chief of staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army [PLA] called on President Sattar at Banga Bhavan this morning. Members of the delegation, which include (?Lin Shen), deputy chief of naval staff of People's Liberation Army, and [name indistinct] deputy chief of air staff of PLA, stayed with the president for some time and discussed matters of mutual interest. The Chinese ambassador to Bangladesh Liu Shujing was also present on the occasion. The Chinese good-will delegation is leaving for home this afternoon at the end of its visit to Bangladesh.

INDUSTRIES MINISTER RETURNS FROM ROMANIA

BK150910 Dacca Domestic Service in English 0835 GMT 15 Mar 82

[Text] Bangladesh is to receive a credit of $580 million from Romania to develop and expand its small-scale industrial sectors in the country. This was stated by Industries Minister Prof Yusuf Ali on his return home today from Romania after a 6-day official visit. He said the credit will be used for setting up small workshops for textile spinning mills, spare parts for textile mills, readymade garments, knitwear factory, PVC complex by using natural gas, drilling rigs, a poultry complex and a modern furniture complex. Romania will also provide technical know-how for these projects.

ALLEGATION AGAINST INDIAN ENVOY INVESTIGATED

BK121617 Dacca Domestic Service in English 1255 GMT 12 Mar 82

[Text] A government handout issued in Dacca today said that detailed investigation has been held into the allegation that the Indian high commissioner and his security guard assaulted the driver of the National Security Intelligence car and abused him [word indistinct] on the 25th of last month. The handout says as a result of the investigation, however, the allegation of the high commissioner threatening, assaulting and abusing the driver could not be established.

However, the driver of the high commissioner's car and his security guard were involved in the incident. Accordingly, the Indian High Commission has sent them out of Bangladesh, the handout added.

BOMB EXPLOSION IN DACCA HOUSE WOUNDS FIVE

BK170657 Hong Kong AFP in English 0641 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] Dacca, 17 Mar (AFP) -- Four women and a boy were wounded in an explosion that badly damaged a Dacca house late last night, police said today. The house was allegedly used for the illegal making of bombs and explosives and the explosion took place shortly after police arrested five young men from the house on charges of manufacturing bombs without authorisation. The wounded women and boy were hospitalised. Police cordoned off the house and surrounding areas immediately after the explosion to conduct a search. Police said several bombs including a live grenade and a home-made gun were found in an open field near the house.

The Bengali daily DAINIK BANGLA quoted a high police official as saying that the explosion occurred as live bombs were being moved elsewhere from the house after the arrest.

Two of the women were in a critical condition following the explosion. They were said to be watching television in a room of the house.

GOVERNOR DISSOLVES KERALA ASSEMBLY 17 MAR

BK171302 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] The Kerala Assembly has been dissolved. The governor's proclamation dissolving the assembly was issued in a gazette extraordinary in Trivandrum this afternoon. Earlier, the Congress-I-led United Democratic Front [UDF] ministry had resigned. The chief minister, Karunakaran, met the governor and submitted his resignation. The decision to resign was taken at a Cabinet meeting this morning which discussed the latest political situation arising out of the withdrawal of support to the ministry of a legislator belonging to the Kerala Congress-Mani Group. The Governor, Mrs Jothi Venkatachellum, has asked Karunakaran to continue in office till alternative arrangements are made.

The left Democratic Front leaders have expressed the view that democratic propriety demanded that the governor should have consulted the opposition about the possibility of forming an alternative ministry. They criticized the dissolution of the assembly.

President's Rule Imposed

BK180309 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Text] President's rule has been imposed following the dissolution of the state assembly by Governor Mrs Jothi Venkatachellum. A proclamation under Article 356 of the constitution to this effect was signed by the president late last night. Earlier, the Union Cabinet considered the governor's report recommending proclamation of the president's rule. The governor had said that no stable alternative ministry can be formed in the state after the resignation of the United Democratic Front ministry headed by Karunakaran, Congress-I.

ASSAM'S CONGRESS-I MINISTRY SUBMITS RESIGNATION

BK180752 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Text] In Assam, Congress-I ministry headed by P.C. Gogoi has resigned this morning. Gogoi sent in his resignation to Governor Prakash Malhotra after a brief meeting of his cabinet at Dispur. Gogoi in his resignation letter also recommended the dissolution of the present assembly in the interest of political stability. Speaker (Sheikh Chand Mohammad) announced the resignation in the state assembly which was in budget session. He read out a message to the house from the governor saying that the governor has accepted the resignation of the ministry and requested Gogoi to continue in office till alternative arrangements are made. The speaker adjourned the house sine die.

Immediately after the announcement of the resignation of the ministry in the assembly, the leader of the nine-party left Democratic Alliance called on the governor. The leader of the alliance, S.C. Sinha, formally staked his claim to form an alternative ministry in the state. Later, talking to newsmen, Sinha claimed that the alliance has an absolute majority in the house, and they oppose imposition of president's rule in the state. They have also sent a telegram to the president of India urging him not to impose president's rule in the state.

NEWSPAPER COMMENTS ON INDO-PAKISTANI RELATIONS

BK171436 Delhi NATIONAL HERALD in English 11 Mar 82 p 7

[Article by Hari Jaisingh]

[Text] Indo-Pakistani relations are once again clouded over. The hope that was kindled for normalisation of ties has been belied sooner than expected.

It is the same old story. Even the plot is all too familiar. Every time there is some improvement in the political climate in the subcontinent, the hawks in Islamabad see to it that there is a setback. And Kashmir comes in handy.

This time also, after all the spadework done for a serious examination of the no-war pact proposal, apart from normilisation of relations, Mr Agha Hilali at one stroke upset everything by taking up the Kashmir issue at the human rights forum in Geneva. He must have done it at the bidding of Islamabad and there must be certain calculations behind this move.

While the compulsions behind Pakistan's move can be a matter of conjecture, it needs to be pointed out that such tactics would only give credence to the suspicion that Pakistan is really not interested in improving relations with this country and that the no-war pact offer is only a ploy to blunt the Indian opposition to its acquiring sohpisticated armaments from U.S.A.

It is, of course, for Pakistan to decide whether it wants war or peace with India. Prime Minister Indira Gandhi has made it clear that India wants peace and greater cooperation with Pakistan. It is New Delhi's genuine desire for peace that prompted India to enter into a dialogue with Islamabad despite grave reservations in certain quarters about Pakistan's bonafides.

Unfortunately, the Pakistani generals have shown no consideration even for their Indian friends, who bend over backwards to show their softness towards Pakistan and tend to blame the Indian Government rather than the other side for anything that goes wrong -- in the name of Indo-Pakistan friendship. Some of them must be thoroughly disillusioned now. But others may still blame the government for putting off the foreign secretary level talks.

New Delhi has reacted aptly. After that performance by Mr Agha Hilali, our side could not have proceeded as if it did not matter to us at all. We had to show where India drew the line.

The relationship between any two countries can improve only within a set framework and by observing the ground rules. The ground rules in this case had been definitely set by the Simla Agreement which specifically prohibited use of force and enjoined settling of bilateral problems bilaterally. Raising of Kashmir and other bilateral issues at world forums was thus against the norms of the Simla pact. In fact, it is in the interests of Pakistan as well as India to create a proper climate for solving their problems by faithfully adhering to the letter and spirit of that understanding. Islamabad has gained nothing by its frequent attempts to internationalise the question of Kashmir.

Nor can it succeed in grabbing Kashmir with the help of American arms. Pakistan has tried it more than once without any reward. It is India which has reason to be aggrieved over the issue -- about Pakistan sitting pretty over a portion of Kashmir territory which it illegitimately grabbed in the 1948 act of aggression. Still, Indian leaders have played it cool in the hope of sorting out this matter with Pakistani leaders across the table one day.

It is indeed a pity that the Pakistani generals continue to disregard Indian sensitivities. They seem to be unable to get over their crude and narrow outlook with regard to India.

This game of taking one step forward and two steps back must be exasperating to Indian policy-makers. In the circumstances, they were constrained to postpone the visit on the Indian foreign secretary to Islamabad for discussions on the no-war pact and related issues.

For the past 34 years Pakistan has vitiated subcontinental politics by its obsession with Kashmir. It has launched all kinds of campaigns -- diplomatic and psychological pressures and even military offensives in order to seize Kashmir by hook or by crook. This game has been going on for too long -- and with disastrous results. It is high time Pakistan stopped it.

How Kashmir became such an issue, how Pakistan was egged on by imperialist powers to play this game is now part of history. Islamabad has tried every method to confuse vital issues at the UN and other world forums. It is surprising that Pakistani leaders have not realized the futility of all this. To think that India would give Pakistan the whole or part of Kashmir for the asking is being unrealistic, to say the least.

Kashmir is as much a part of India as any other state and under no circumstances will Indian leaders agree to any arrangement that reverses the historical and political process in Kashmir. This is a simple message, and the sooner the Pakistani rulers understand it the better.

It is for the Pakistani leaders to decide what kind of relationship they want with India. So far as India is concerned, she has made it amply clear that she wants nothing but peace and friendly relations with Pakistan but will fight with all her might if a war is forced on this country. Mrs Gandhi has categorically said that, no-war pact or no no-war pact, India will never attack Pakistan. So the choice is with the Pakistani leaders. It will be unfortunate if they close their eyes to the lessons of history.

The Pakistani generals must also realise that a collision course will ultimately boomerang on them, especially in view of the fact that the common man in Pakistan, as anywhere else, wants to live in peace. He does not want war or artificial barriers that come in the way of normal relations with India -- a country with which the Pakistani people have so much in common. A confrontationist approach towards India and war psychosis have proved disastrous economically and otherwise for Pakistan. These have, unfortunately, placed a heavy burden on this country, too.

When India agreed to discuss a no-war pact, there was initially some hesitation in South block as to the real intentions of the leaders in Islamabad. Still, the policy-makers in New Delhi put their reservations aside and decided to take a calculated risk in opening a dialogue on the proposal with Pakistan. Even the Pakistani leaders admitted that the Indian response was good and positive. Their subsequent behaviour in this fashion is all the more regrettable. But then we have to face the realities. Peace-making is a long and difficult exercise. In the chequered history of Indo-Pak relations several attempts have been made in the past to normalise ties between the two countries. Several opportunities too came up in the process. The first was the Tashkent declaration. Then came the Simla Agreement. Both provided a historical opportunity to the leaders of the two countries to bury the hatchet for all times to come. In fact, it appeared then that Indo-Pakistan relations were at last moving in a healthy direction. But all those hopes proved to be short-lived simply because the question of peace or war has become a plaything in the hands of the generals in Islamabad.

More than the nature of the regime, what is required is a change in the basic attitude on the part of the rulers of Pakistan. It is unfortunate that they live on some myths and illusions that include an unfounded fear of India.

This is more of a psychological problem than anything else. India sets great store by the integrity and security of Pakistan. This has been made amply clear by the Indian prime minister on a number of occasions. Still, the Pakistani generals keep alive a war psychosis for reasons best known to them. This could be because of domestic political compulsion. Whatever may be the reason, it is their people who suffer most, and they have indeed suffered because of the military junta's preoccupation with achieving short-term gains. Can we expect President Ziaul Haq to broaden his vision, and see the relations within the subcontinent in a larger historical perspective? The crucial months ahead will provide the answer.

SRI LANKA

GOVERNMENT ENACTS ANTITERRORIST LEGISLATION

BK121027 Hong Kong AFP in English 0744 GMT 12 Mar 82

[Text] Colombo, 12 March (AFP) -- The Sri Lankan Government has rushed special legislation through Parliament to deal with what is believed to be a worsening terrorist situation in the predominantly minority Tamil populated northern province, it was announced here today.

The liberation Tamil Tiger Movement, backing a call for a separate Tamil state in the northern province, has been credited with the gunning down of 25 members of the security forces.

The Tigers have also robbed a number of banks, blown up an empty government owned aircraft and killed various politicians and other people. They also had gun battles with troops and police on a fairly regular basis using stolen weapons mostly collected in police station hold-ups.

While government ministers told Parliament yesterday that the new laws were necessary to prevent terrorists and criminals escaping through loopholes in the existing laws, the opposition compared the new legislation to the terrorism act of South Africa.

The new laws enable the authorities to question suspects against who there was no evidence. It also empowers the justice minister to hold suspected terrorists for a period of eighteen months without a remand order from a magistrate.

Vote in Parliament

BK121138 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 12 Mar 82

[Excerpts] The prevention of terrorism temporary provisions amendment bill was passed in Parliament yesterday; 127 members voted in favor of the bill, while 12 members voted against. The Sri Lanka Freedom Party [SLFP], the Tamil United Liberation Front [TULF] and the Communist Party voted against the bill.

The bill was vehemently opposed by the TULF and the solitary Communist Party member of Parliament. They argued that the liberty of the subject was involved and further questioned the government's urgency to pass this legislation.

PLANTATION WORKERS REFUSE REPATRIATION TO INDIA

BK161312 Hong Kong AFP in English 1250 GMT 16 Mar 82

[Text] Colombo, 16 Mar (AFP) -- Plantation workers of Indian origin employed on Sri Lanka's tea and rubber estates are refusing to return to India although they have been granted Indian citizenship.

The CEYLON DAILY NEWS today quoted a top emigration official as saying that nearly 100,000 people of Indian origin who have been given Indian citizenship are refusing to leave for India under a repatriation and citizenship pact between the two countries.

The workers are descendants of south Indian workers brought by British planters to Sri Lanka in the 1840's. Now residing and working on the estates on temporary visas, the workers remain in Sri Lanka although there is provision for their arrest and deportation to India.

Sri Lankan authorities are reluctant to forcibly deport these workers on what they call humanitarian grounds although almost all of them are overstaying their visas.

According to the CEYLON DAILY NEWS report, these workers refuse to go back to India because those among them who had left earlier wrote back saying they were suffering, with many even starving.

MOHTASHEMI BRIEFS KHOMEYNI ON KHADDAM VISIT

LD171148 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] Mr 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Damascus, was received this morning by Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In his meeting with the imam of the nation the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Damascus, who came to Tehran with high-ranking Syrian officials, presented a report to him on the outcome of this delegation's visit to Iran. At the end of this meeting the Iranian ambassador took part in an interview on the outcome of this delegation's visit and the issues discussed in the imam's presence, to which we now draw your attention:

[Begin recording] [Question] Mr Mohtashemi, as ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Damascus you have come to Iran with a delegation of high-ranking Syrian officials. Today you had a meeting with the imam. How do you view the outcome of this delegation's visit, and what issues were discussed in the imam's presence?

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. It is natural that following the victory of the Islamic revolution of Iran as the only frontline country among the Muslim and Arab countries Syria has confronted Israel. [sentence as heard] The Islamic Republic of Iran, one of whose principles has been to fight against Zionism and against the occupation of Islamic lands, has had very sincere and friendly relations with Syria. However, in the last few months these relations have been even further extended.

Ever since I was given this heavy responsibility and started my work as the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Damascus I have tried to extend these relations. I have tried to make the Syrian officials understand that the Islamic Republic of Iran can be the greatest power in the region and the greatest supporter for the Syrian Government and nation in their battle against Israel and in the expulsion of the Zionists from the occupied territories.

Of course, the contacts between Iranian and Syrian delegations have been very useful. The Syrian Arab Government has sent a very high-ranking delegation consisting of several ministers and several senior Syrian officials to Iran, which represents a big step by the Syrian Arab Government. Fortunately, the outcome of this trip has been very positive both for Iran and for the Syrian Arab Government in various commercial, trade, banking, oil and political spheres.

Concerning the last part of your question about my meeting today with the imam of the nation, great leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, I would say that I presented a brief report on the delegation's visit and also a report of my own activities during this period. The imam of the nation favored me with some very important guidelines that will be the guiding lights of my work. [end recording]

JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON TALKS WITH SYRIANS

LD171938 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Mar 82

["Joint political communique" issued simultaneously in Tehran and Damascus on 17 March at the conclusion of an official visit by a Syrian delegation headed by Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. "This is verily your nation, a single nation, and I am your lord. So worship me!" [Koranic verse]

In response to an invitation from Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, minister of foreign affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the Syrian Arab Republic, paid an official visit to Iran from 13-16 March at the head of a high-ranking delegation. The delegation consisted of Dr Salim Yasin, minister of economy and foreign trade; Dr 'Abd al-Jabbar ad-Dahhak, minister of oil and natural resources; Mr Nadir an-Nabulsi, deputy minister of oil and natural resources; Col Muhammad Yafi [no post given]; (?Ambassador Saghir Dari'i), director of the Asia Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ambassador Ibrahim al-Yunis, Syrian ambassador to Tehran; Dr Mustafa al-Hajj 'Ali, director of the bureau of the deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and a number of specialists from the Syrian Ministries of Economy, Industry, Oil and Transport.

During this visit the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, received in audience Mr 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Syria. Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, and Mr Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, the prime minister, also received the Syrian guest.

Mr 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and the delegation accompanying him paid a short visit to the mausoleum of the martyrs, Behesht-e Zahra cemetery.

Mr 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, at the head of the Syrian and Iranian delegations, conducted talks in an atmosphere of fraternity, friendship and mutual understanding. They observed with gladness the two countries' similarity of views on most problems.

The two sides emphasized that such cordial visits would strengthen and expand the friendly relations existing between the two countries.

The two sides warned the Islamic and nonaligned countries against schemes hatched particularly by U.S. imperialism, the arch-Satan, Zionism and reaction in the region. They asserted that all these plots are aimed at destroying the progressive forces in the region, led by Iran's Islamic revolution and the Syrian revolution, as well as Islam's lofty aims.

Having decided to confront all aggressive schemes and plots, the two sides emphasized their efforts to mobilize all capabilities in this regard as a necessary step toward the liberation of Palestine and the Arab and Islamic lands.

7. [as heard] The two sides emphasized that the Camp David course and all attempts and compromising plans aimed at placing the region under the control of U.S. imperialism, recognizing the Zionist occupationist regime and wiping out the fundamental issue of the Islamic nation, that is, the Palestine problem, are rejected and opposed.

The two sides underlined emphatically that the only way to destroy the usurping Zionist regime is through a decisive and continuous struggle by all Muslims and liberation and progressive forces. Accordingly, the Islamic Republic of Iran supports the fighting positions of the steadfastness front, particularly Syria and the PLO, in confronting the Zionist occupationist regime.

The two sides condemned the unlawful and aggressive decision of the Zionist enemy to annex the territorites of the Syrian Arab Republic in the Golan.

10. [as heard] The two sides condemned Zionist acts of aggression against Lebanon, particularly against southern Lebanon, and announced their support for the just struggles of the Lebanese people.

The two sides condemned the recent visit paid by French President Mitterrand to occupied Palestine and the results thereof aimed at strengthening and supporting the Zionist enemy.

The two sides studied and condemned the aggressive war imposed by Iraq's fascist regime on Iran's Islamic revolution. The war effectively withdraws Iraq from the battlefield against Zionist aggression and weakens Iraq's forces.

It deals a blow at Iran's Islamic revolution and punishes Iran for overthrowing the satanical regime, abolishing the U.S. presence in Iran and taking a stand on the side of the Arabs against the Zionist enemy for the liberation of Palestine.

In addition, the two countries condemned the continuation of the war by the Baghdad regime.

While backing the role of the Nonaligned Movement, the two countries announced their opposition to the holding of the forthcoming conference of the heads of the nonaligned countries in Baghdad and called on the said countries to change the venue for that conference.

The two sides emphasized the importance and necessity of cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Arab countries in strengthening their joint anti-Zionist and anti-imperialist stands on the basis of noninterference in the internal affairs and respect for the territorial integrity of others, particularly when the plans hatched by Zionism and world imperialism are aimed at destroying the unity of the Islamic and nonaligned countries and at creating internal contradictions among them in order to impose the control and influence of the aggressive forces on these countries.

The two sides discussed and exchanged views on the importance of strengthening relations between the Islamic and nonaligned countries for unity of effort to achieve progress and complete liberation from any foreign domination and control.

In view of the two sides' interest in advancing and strengthening economic, trade and cultural relations, the following agreements were signed:

A. A protocol on the exchange of goods between the Syrian Arab Republic and the Islamic Republic of Iran for 1982-92;

B. An agreement on the export of oil to the Syrian Arab Republic.

The two sides condemned the occupation of the territory of others with the use of force, emphasizing the need for noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries.

The two sides studied how to strengthen relations among Islamic countries in order to strengthen and consolidate their solidarity, cooperation and unity in confronting imperialism and Zionism.

The two countries condemned the efforts of reaction and imperialism to mislead Muslim public opinion under the pretext of a danger emanating from the Islamic Republic of Iran and aimed at diverting attention from the danger of Zionism.

The two sides expressed their full satisfaction with the results of this visit, which demonstrates the two countries' dedication to expanding and strengthening mutual cooperation in all areas and to deepening the relations between the two fraternal, Muslim countries.

Mr 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam expressed his thanks and gratitude for the fraternal welcome accorded to him and his delegation and invited his counterpart, Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, to visit Syria. The invitation was accepted with thanks, and its date will be determined later.

[Signed] Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, minister of foreign affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran;

'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of foreign affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic

PETROLEUM MINISTER LEAVES FOR VIENNA OPEC TALKS

LD181024 Tehran IRNA in English 0916 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Text] Tehran, 18 Mar (IRNA) -- Oil Minister Mohammad Gharazi left Tehran for Vienna this morning. Gharazi, who is heading a delegation, is due to attend the emergency session of the Organisation of Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC), there.

MUSAVI DISCUSSES ILLITERACY, HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS

LD161042 Tehran IRNA in English 0928 GMT 16 Mar 82

[Text] Tehran, 16 Mar (IRNA) -- Members of the Central Council and officials of the campaign against illiteracy met and conferred with Prime Minister Musavi Monday afternoon. Emphasising that illiteracy should be eradicated in this country, the prime minister said that such a goal could only be achieved through revolutionary institutions and an overall mobilisation by the people.

Referring to the conspiracies of counterrevolutionaries and their false propaganda, the prime minister said that the Human Rights Commission and Amnesty International had condemned Iran for the punishment of a number of criminals who had shown no mercy towards school children.

He stressed that lack of direct contact with the government was a problem hindering the successful implementation of the illiteracy campaign's programmes. Musavi added that since Iran was cutting off all dependencies there would inevitably be some bottlenecks, imposed on all institutions and organisations, caused by the economic sanctions and enforcement of pressure by the superpowers. He said that Iran had been successfully resisting irrational demands of big countries and becoming independent of foreigners.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 821

LD171748 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Communique 821 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. A report on the just battle waged by the devotees and self-sacrificing combatants of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the fronts of the imposed war are hereby brought to the attention of our beloved compatriots:

The results of the operations carried out by the devotees of the ground forces on the western fronts are as follows:

One tank and several supply depots were destroyed on the Salehabad fronts.

On the Sumar front, the enemy's fire was silenced, several supply depots were destroyed and 10 enemy soldiers were killed.

On the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab front, 1 tank, 1 ammunition dump and several weapons and supply depots belonging to the enemy were destroyed and approximately 140 Iraqi soldiers were either killed or wounded. The combatants of Islam brought the supply routes of the Saddamist forces on these fronts under their control and disrupted supplies.

One truck was destroyed and a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed on the Gilan-e Gharb front.

Artillery fire on the Saddamists' positions in the Panjwin and Biarreh areas of the Marivan front resulted in losses and casualties for the enemy and the silenced enemy fire.

The heroes of the gendarmerie destroyed the enemy trenches and observation posts on the (Ganjveys) front and returned and silenced the enemy's fire on the Nowsud front.

The heroes of the tribal irregular warfare units on the aforesaid fronts bravely defended their positions are returned the enemy's fire.

Yesterday exchanges of artillery and heavy-weapons fire continued as usual on all the southern fronts. As a result of the Saddamist mercenaries' long-range artillery fire, the city of Abadan suffered losses and casualties yesterday.

Most of the air raids carried out in the past 24 hours by the mercenary Iraqi Army were foiled by the fire of our air defense units.

In the course of a battle on 15 March, seven combatants of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran achieved the lofty rank of martyrdom.

GUARDS REPORT SUCCESSFUL SURPRISE ATTACK

LD171900 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Excerpts] The following communique has been issued by the Public Relations Office of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps:

At dawn today the devotees of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, in a series of operations condenamed Umm al-Hasanayn, launched a surprise attack in the Hamidiyeh area against part of Brigade 109 of the Iraqi 5th Infantry Division, managing to kill more than 103 of the Ba'thist mercenaries and taking a group of them prisoner.

In these operations our combatants, in addition to wounding a large number of the Ba'thist aggressors, managed to destroy 2 T-62 tanks, 3 medium-heavy 106-mm rifles, 3 mortar launchers and more than 30 trenches of the Saddamists. Twelve Iraqi prisoners have been transferred behind the fronts.

SUCCESSFUL ATTACK AGAINST IRAQI FORCES REPORTED

LD172034 Tehran IRNA in English 1953 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] Tehran, 17 Mar (IRNA) -- The Islamic forces launced an attack on the Iraqi aggressor forces at dawn today in the southern region of Tarrah, west of Ahvaz, during which 250 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded. The operation, named "Fatimah az-Zahra (S.A.)," the daughter of the prophet (S.A.), destroyed seven enemy artillery pieces and led to the capture of 19 enemy soldiers. Following this successful attack, the Islamic forces opened a heavy artillery [word indistinct] on the enemy force's logistical routes near Kuhe, also [word indistinct] of the city of Ahvaz, halted enemy support units moving towards Tarrah and inflicted some undetermined damages on the Iraqi forces.

'Heavy Casualties'

LD171740 Tehran IRNA in English 1707 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] Tehran, 16 Mar (IRNA) -- Heavy casualties were inflicted on the Iraqi aggressor forces during Tuesday in which 153 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded in the western fronts of Sumar, Gilan-e Gharb, Sar-e Pol-e Zahab and two tanks and one vehicle of the enemy were destroyed, as reported by the northwest operational headquarters.

Also, the headquarters said that sporadic exchanges of fire continued in the Dalahu and Nowsud fronts, situated in the western province of Bakhtaran (formerly Kermanshahan) and the artillery fire of the Islamic forces on enemy positions in the Iraqi regions of Panjwin and Biarreh, a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and the enemy fire was quelled.

In other developments on Tuesday, a number of Iraqi aggressor aircraft violated the airspace of Dehloran, in Ilam Province, and bombed the region from high altitudes without inflicting casualties.

Meanwhile, the Islamic forces on March 15 crushed an enemy attack in the Zahab region of Sayyid Sadiq, Gol Khatun, Bondastak, and Dasht-e Zahab, which killed 55 Iraqi soldiers and captured four others. In this operation two tanks, one personnel carrier, one artillery piece, seven vehicles, eight group bunkers, one individual bunker and one munitions depot of the enemy forces were destroyed.

The head of the ideological-political office of the 81st Army Division of Bakhtaran, while reporting this clash, said that during the 48 hours preceding Wednesday 40 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded in the other western fronts of Malekshahi, Meymak, Kan-e Sakht, Shur-e Shirin, and Konjancham while two tanks, one munitions depot, and nine group bunkers of the aggressor forces were destroyed.

In one of the heights in the Sumar region of Bakhtaran Province four enemy soldiers were killed, four were wounded and one observation post of the Iraqis were destroyed.

'HYPOCRITES' ARRESTED IN VOICE, VISION PLOTS

LD171818 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] According to a report by the Central News Unit, the Public Relations Office of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps in a communique has announced:

The brothers of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, with the help of the Islamic revolution committees and with the cooperation of the 36-million-strong intelligence organization, at the first stage of the victorious Mersad operations managed to arrest 30 members of the hypocrites network in connection with the organization of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The aims of this group have been to gather intelligence on the revolutionary and faithful personnel of the Voice and Vision, to work out a plan to murder them, to gather information on the buildings and sensitive equipment of the Voice and Vision in order to destroy, rob and carry out any abuse in the interest of the arch-Satan America and their other criminal masters and also to study the possibility of using the other staff members to obtain information.

The discovery of this network with the coordination and unstinting cooperation of the honorable Supervisory Council and with the help of the committed and faithful personnel of the Voice and Vision organization can be used as a warning to emphasize the need for the Muslim and committed personnel in all the ministries and offices to maintain permanent readiness to confront the last remnants of the arch-Satan.

2 KILLED IN DISCOVERY OF SHIRAZ SAFE HOUSE

GF171845 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] The Shiraz Islamic Revolution Guards Corps discovered a safe house of the hypocrites in the northermost part of the city last night. As a result, two hypocrites were destroyed and a number were arrested.

Following the incidents created by the antipopular hypocrites this past week in Shiraz, which resulted in the wounding of three Hezbollahi brothers in the city, the brother revolution guards in Shiraz, enjoying the cooperation of the Police Department of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Shiraz as well as the 36-million-strong intelligence organization, were able to [word indistinct] the hypocrite allies of the criminal United States.

The hypocrite's safe house in Shiraz on Qasr-e Dasht Avenue -- which served as a military headquarters for the organization -- was surrounded by the brother guards at 1900 last night. During a 5-hour armed battle in the midst of bullets and grenades (?thrown) by the hypocrites and the return fire of the brother guards, two hypocrites were sent to hell and a number of them were arrested. A large quantity of military ammunition was discovered in the house and confiscated.

An official of the Shiraz Islamic Revolution Guards Corps in an interview with a Central News Unit correspondent thanked the always-on-the-scene people and said that the hypocrites did not even pity the small children and pregnant women in the house and (?killed) [words indistinct].

CLANDESTINE ON CLASHES, ARRESTS IN BUSHEHR

NC171334 (Clandestine) Voice of Iran in Persian 1805 GMT 16 Mar 82

[Text] The Tehran state radio has confessed that the regime has crushed a freedom-seeking wave of the people in the south of our country. The Tehran state radio said that on 11 January, simultaneous with the anniversary of the inception of theocracy, a number of Bushehr people, led by a clergyman of the city, rebelled against the regime and intended to carry out hostile acts. The state radio, which was reporting this after a month or more and with misleading words, also confessed that following clashes that took place between this group and hireling revolution guards of the regime, 17 combatants were arrested and imprisoned and sent to the Bushehr court of injustice.

The Tehran radio did not give any more details, but the clandestine Free Voice of Iran reported in its newscast that the Bushehr combatants were brothers of the Sunni faith and that following the arrest of the combatant clergyman of the city and his comrades in arm, the people of Bushehr went on strikes and protested, closed down the shops, and employees and workers of various orgaizations stopped work.

NVOI CRITICIZES JUDGES FOR SILENCE ON VIOLATIONS

TA162013 [Editorial Report] The Clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 16 March carried a commentary entitled "What the People Expect From the Country's Supreme Court."

It said: During a radio and television interview, Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili, president of the country's Supreme Court, recounted the distinct lines and the activities and successes of the judicial branch, and at the same time did not deny that it had inadequacies and shortcomings. He said that in the past all the efforts of the lawmakers were aimed at making the rich richer and the poor poorer.

In view of this fact, we naturally come to the conclusion that a fundamental review should be carried out in the entire system of the country's lawmkaing process on the basis of safeguarding the rignts of the oppressed. At the same time numerous individuals, under cover of hypocrisy and pseudo-Islam, have been able to somehow entrench themselves in the Ministry of Justice.

All the activities of these individuals are aimed at showing the people of the world that the law of the jungle prevails in the Islamic Republic and that allegedly the Islamic government intends to turn Iran 1,000 years backward. At best, this group of individuals, who have managed to function as judges, are keeping silent in the face of violations.

Silence and indifference toward violations and injustice is itself a great crime and treason to the Islamic Republic of Iran. In this connection, one can draw the attention of the president of our country's Supreme Court to the issue of the occupation of the offices of organizations committed to the revolution by certain unauthorized individuals. The judicial apparatus is keeping silent in this connection and is indifferent.

The people and all the true forces of the revolution expect judicial authorities and the president of the Supreme Court to prevent assualt by unauthorized individuals and groups on forces and organizations that are defending the interests of the oppressed and the imam's line by drafting and implementing laws aimed at safeguarding these interests.

CLANDESTINE ON USSR, DPRK ARMS, EXPERTS

NC171150 (Clandestine) Voice of Iran in Persian 1805 GMT 16 Mar 82

[Text] We begin our news in detail with the unpublished report that the Islamic Republic has signed a confidential arms agreement with the Soviet Union. In a special dispatch, the Voice of Iran correspondent says that on the basis of a confidential agreement signed with the communist Government of the Soviet Union, Khomeyni's Islamic Republic will purchase $860-million worth of arms from that country. These arms include: antiaircraft missiles, grenade launchers, various mines, and spares for Soviet-built vehicles. So far, about $320 million of this amount has been paid for arms which have been received from the Soviet Union.

Our correspondent's report states that according to the said agreement the Soviet Union will place its military services at the disposal of the Islamic Tehran government, and that by 20 February, at least 35 Soviet military experts had arrived in our country to train Iranian Armed Forces personnel in the use of these weapons. In addition, 40 junior officers of the Iranian Armed Forces have been sent to the Soviet Union for courses on the use of these weapons.

Our correspondent adds that the important point in this agreement is that the ruling regime's arms' purchases from the Soviet Union are paid in cash with creditable Western currencies. The Soviet Union has strictly refused to carry out a barter transaction in this field.

Another report by the Voice of Iran correspondent that is being published for the first time also states that the DPRK too, in implementing a confidential arms agreement, is regularly sending Soviet-made arms and ammunition to the Islamic Republic, and that DPRK military experts are presently in Iran for this same purpose.

Concluding this report, our correspondent points out that so far he is fully aware of the presence of at least 15 military experts of the communist DPRK Government in Iran.

RADIO IRAN REPORTS REGIME SELLING GOLD

NC161456 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 16 Mar 82

[Text] A Radio Iran correspondent has reported from London that, according to economic experts, during the period between 22 December until now the Islamic Republic has sold 25 tons of Iran's gold reserves. [name indistinct], an expert in the London Stock Exchange, in a meeting with the Radio Iran correspondent, expressed doubts on (?denials) by Mohsen Nurbakhsh, governor of the Islamic Republic's Central Bank. He added that it is now definite that because of the Islamic Republic's incapability to meet current expenses and the stupendous war expenditures the remainder of Iran's gold reserves and especially Iran's [words indistinct] and the crown jewels will be sold on the world market.